



Committee News April 2026

## **Welcome to the April newsletter**

They say time flies when you are enjoying yourself, and that has certainly been true for me. It is hard to believe that nearly three years have passed since I was elected Chair of our u3a. During that time I have greatly enjoyed the role — whether helping at social events such as last month's Pie and Peas evening, charring committee meetings, or welcoming prospective members at our monthly Drop-in sessions. Most of all, it has been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated team of group leaders, volunteers and committee members who contribute so much to keeping our u3a thriving.

However, all good things must come to an end. At the next AGM I will step down as Chair as my three-year term concludes. I will be sorry to hand over the reins, but it would be wonderful if we could find a successor in good time so that they might ease into the role before formally taking it on in November. If you might be interested in becoming our next Chair, please do get in touch with me.

I would be very happy to talk about the role.

Ian

**New members' coffee morning** at The Wesley Centre, 28 Oxford Street, Harrogate

on **Friday 10th April 10.30am** until midday

others  
welcome  
too!

*Come and socialise, find out more about what Hu3a has to offer  
and share your ideas and experiences*

**"Drop-in"**

at The Place at the Crown Hotel

on **Saturday 11th April** from **10.30am** to midday

*members and their friends can call in to meet and chat with committee members  
raise questions or issues, make suggestions  
or just find out about groups and events*

**Members' Talk**

*entry with members' card*

at St Mark's Church, Leeds Road

*buses 36, X52 & A2 stop outside*

on **Friday 27th March 11am (doors open 10.30am)**

**Jane Horrod**

**"Yorkshire Air Ambulance - always ready"**

*Jane is a fundraiser for the Air Ambulance, based in North Yorkshire*

## Members' Talks

entry with members' card

at St Mark's Church, Leeds Road

buses 36, X52 & A2 stop outside

on Friday 24th April 11am (doors open 10.30am)

Andy Fox

### "Crimestoppers - keeping safe"

Andy is Chair of Crimestoppers North Yorkshire

on Friday 29th May 11am (doors open 10.30am)

Paul Whittaker OBE

### "Deaf Musician"

Paul is an inspirational speaker and musician who works with groups and in schools to promote deaf awareness - his website is [paulwhittaker.org.uk](http://paulwhittaker.org.uk)

## Group News

to find out more about groups click here: [harrogate.u3asite.uk/groups/](http://harrogate.u3asite.uk/groups/)

### Walking on Wednesday

We would like to do this twice a month, and walks would be between 8 and 12 miles, circular, in the Yorkshire Dales. We will operate a car sharing travel arrangement (exceptionally using public transport) and costs will be shared.

Walks will start from an agreed point in Harrogate with the option to meet at the start.

Dogs will not be allowed on the walks due to the risk of encountering farm animals en route.

We would hope to finish each walk with tea and cakes in a Dales café. Walks will be at the pace of the slowest, but walkers will need a good level of fitness. If you are interested please contact [harrogate.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/walking-on-wednesday/](http://harrogate.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/walking-on-wednesday/)

New Group!

### Crafting Group

This new group is run by Sue Head and will start in April. Members can bring their projects to work on and share techniques, tips and patterns. For example, knitting, crochet, needlework or anything else. Expert demonstrations may also be arranged. Beginners welcome.

For more information see [harrogate.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/craft-group-2/](http://harrogate.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/craft-group-2/)

### Going Gently - next course

Picture a courtroom and in the dock is sitting a large, glum-looking elephant being harangued by a lawyer. The lawyer is saying, 'If you were in the room the whole time, how come we cannot find a single witness to corroborate your story?' I hope by the end of the course there would be more talking in the rooms of Harrogate, and far fewer elephants!

One thing that all of us will have to face eventually is our own mortality. Whether death comes suddenly or is signalled from afar, it will be easier for us and for those we leave behind if we can plan for its arrival.

**A new Going Gently course will take place at Harrogate Library, beginning on Friday 5th June.**

It will run weekly for 5 weeks and cost £25 for the whole course, to cover the cost of room hire, stationery and refreshments.

See website for booking [harrogate.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/going-gently/](http://harrogate.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/going-gently/)

## Recorder Group

This will focus on playing in small groups, duets or trios.

Ability to read music is preferred.

If you have played as a child or can play other instruments you would be most welcome

All sizes of recorders welcome.

Music provided but if you have a music stand that would be useful.

*If you signed up at the Members' Talk you don't need to sign up again, otherwise contact group coordinator to register interest.*

[groupcoordinator@harrogateu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@harrogateu3a.org.uk)

New  
Group!

## French Conversation 1

The group currently has **vacancies for new members**.

It is a French conversation group of intermediate standard, meeting weekly in each other's houses on Thursday mornings. The objective is lively conversation on any number of subjects both past and present.

If you are interested please contact Terry via [the website](#)

## Garden Visit Group

This new group has now been created and is led by Nigel and Jo Eaton. There is a program of visits planned to local gardens taking part in the National Garden Scheme, from May through to September. In the Autumn and Winter months there will be garden talks. Members will need to make their own way to the gardens but car sharing can be arranged. Costs will include - garden entry, contribution to fuel if car sharing & room hire for the talks. If you are interested then you can contact the Group Leader via [Harrogate.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/garden-visits/](http://Harrogate.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/garden-visits/)

*If you signed up at the Members' Talk then you don't need to sign up again.*

## Film Club – possible new group!

*"Alright Mr DeMille, I'm ready for my close-up"*

Calling all film buffs! We're looking for someone to lead a Film club. We have the relevant U3A licence in place, plus a suggested venue. All that remains is to find an audience, someone to run the box office, and a curator. ***If you can help to get this off the ground please contact the [Group Coordinator](#)***



## The Looking at Churches Group marked its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary

34 members attended Tony Wilson's presentation about the Group's history, leaders, talks and visits; it brought back fond memories both of members' talks and of the churches visited. The celebration finished with the cutting of the birthday cake featuring York Minister.

**“Save the date” for the Summer Treasure Hunt**

It will be held in Knaresborough on Tuesday 30th June in the afternoon

## Hu3a website

By visiting our website - [Harrogate.u3asite.uk](http://Harrogate.u3asite.uk) you can find out more about groups, which ones have spaces and which are currently full. You will also be able to find there information about all our policies, procedures and lots more.

Editors - Beulah and Catherine Contact [news@harrogateu3a.org.uk](mailto:news@harrogateu3a.org.uk)